

MATTHEW

November 27, 2022

Matthew 17:14-23

READ

Matthew 17:14-23

Mark 9:14-32

Luke 9:37-45

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. What scene do Jesus and His three disciples—Peter, James & John—find upon their return from the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:14-16)?

2. What does Jesus' enquiry reveal (Mark 9:17-18)?

3. What is the boy's condition (v. 15; Mark 9:17) and for how long did he suffer (Mark 9:21)?

Describe his symptoms (v. 15; Mark 9:17-18, 21, 25; Luke 9:39).

4. Meditate on Jesus' answer to His disciples (v. 17). What is Jesus expressing? How would the nine have taken these words?

5. How does the demon react to Jesus' presence (Mark 9:20)? Why do you suppose that is?

6. What is the father's plea (v. 15; Mark 9:22)?

What is Jesus' response (Mark 9:23)? What does He mean by the last half of the verse?

Discuss the significance of the father's reply (Mark 9:24).

How do you most experience the inner struggle between belief & unbelief?

7. What is the demon's reaction to being cast out (v. 18; Mark 9:25-27)? Why do you suppose that is?

8. Explain why the disciples would be confused about their inability to help the boy (v. 19; c.f., 10:1; Mark 6:13).

9. What does Jesus say about their failure (vv. 19-21)?

What is suggested by the imagery of moving a mountain?

Contrast the difference between "faithless" (v. 17, KJV) or "the littleness of your faith" and mustard-seed-sized faith. (Why is one impotent and one potent?)

What is essential preparation when dealing with the demonic (v. 21)? What role has faith?

10. Why are the disciples having such a hard time with Jesus' statements regarding His death & resurrection (Luke 9:45)?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will give care to my faith this week by . . .

I will seek help with my "unbelief" this week by . . .